



January 2024

Welcome to term 2 in Jolly Pirates.

Important dates this month.

Education Authority Portal for Primary One applications open at 12 noon on 9th January 2024 and closes at 12 noon on 26th January 2024.

Staff Development Day – Wednesday 3rd January (Jolly Pirates closed for pupils).

Where to access information.

Up to date information will be communicated via Family app, Facebook, news section of the website and on our noticeboard.

Parents are encouraged to check regularly throughout the month for updates.

Jolly Pirates staff are here at any time if you would like to speak to us. Please contact us and we will get back to you as soon as possible before or after sessions.

What is our learning project?

Our learning project this month is 'What do we need?' During this project, we will ask the children what they would like to learn about, some input from the children could include keeping healthy e.g., fruit and vegetables, exercising and brushing our teeth. Over the month of January, we will be researching the quotes and ideas from the children to help build their knowledge on this topic. This will be through ICT video clips, story books, discussions during circle time and free play activities.

We will explore what our bodies need including exercise and movement.

What activities might we explore?

The boys and girls will be exploring a wide range of items and resources. We will explore healthy eating including '5 a day' and healthy foods. The boys and girls will have the opportunity to make their own vegetable soup, were they will be cutting their own vegetables. Helping to enhance manipulative skills such as fine and gross motor skills. Mathematical skills and language as they count and weigh ingredients. They will hopefully enjoy the soup for snack, fingers crossed!

We will explore planting and growing this month with some seeds. Children will have the opportunity to develop their cutting skills with chopping up vegetables and cutting up their own snack e.g., buttering and cutting their toast.

We will provide lots of different physical development opportunities to continue exploring exercise and movement.

What might we sing or read? The children will have the opportunity to explore our books with peers and staff. They will be able to explore freely throughout the session with topic related books. The books will enhance the children's learning by looking at pictures and staff reading aloud during group story time. There will be engagement from a staff member to answer any questions the children may have.

During group time the children will also explore our new songs. Singing songs and exploring books will help children interact socially as they play together. Our rhyme and song sheet is available to download from our website and is uploaded on Family. Children will also have the opportunity to hear different types of music and play instruments.

Additional activities planned?

This month we will be NI Water visit to help us learn about why we need water and how to help save water. We will also receive a visit from the recycling education team from our local council. We will explore how to recycle materials to make something new. Poppin Pilates will be visiting us for another session of movement, sensory fun, storytelling and relaxation.

What skills are we focussing on? During this month we will be helping to develop increasing control of fine motor movements of their fingers and hands, which links to children's emergent writing skills. They will have opportunities throughout the session to play with equipment that can improve their fine motor skills such as building, threading, screwing, pouring, and completing simple tasks such as buttering bread/toast and putting their own coats on and helping to further develop their independence skills.

Home activity ideas:

Each month we encourage children and their families to take part in some home activities. We will share some home activity ideas via Family. We encourage parents/guardians to engage in these alongside their child to build a school to home link. Some activities will be;

Singing our song and rhyme sheet.

Can you spot any object that is an oval shape?

Sorting socks game.

Please email photos to info@jollypiratespreschool.co.uk

Additional information:

Sickness: please phone Jolly Pirates on 02892 670988, email info@jollypiratespreschool.co.uk or send a message on Family to alert staff to your child being off due to sickness. This would be greatly appreciated.

Please ensure all items of uniform are labelled and spare clothes bag clearly labelled.

Any extended family members or childminders, who may be collecting children, will need **photographic I.D.** Staff must be informed the morning of collection or ahead of time that there will be someone other than parents collecting.